

**2020 Kickoff: National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction  
September 14, 2020**

**Questions & Answers**

*In an effort to provide you with the information and resources you need to hold a stand-down and take actionable steps to prevent falls, we have compiled a number of Q&As from the webinar and a list of relevant resources, many of which were also shared during the chat. Some of the Q&As below are covered in the event recording, [available here](#), but the majority of the questions are those we did not have time to respond to live.*

**General Questions**

**1) What are the incentives besides worker safety for small contractors to participate in more safety trainings?**

**OSHA:** “The last thing that employer wants is someone injured or killed on their jobsite regardless of the hazard. So the incentive is to make sure to evaluate the workplace, train employees to avoid these preventable injuries – that in itself should be incentive enough. Having been in the safety business 30 years, over 25 with OSHA many times I’ve visited workplaces as a compliance officer that said how could this happen. When you look into the investigation you can see where mistakes were made. Most were not intentional, some are (call those ‘willful classifications’. Incentive: get educated and get informed on these hazards and how to mitigate them in the workplace. It’s important to prevent unnecessary and preventable tragedies in construction industry related to falls.”

**NIOSH:** “We have done work on return on investment on safety. There is an economic case to incorporate safety into everything we do. Beyond the economics, it’s an issue of doing the right thing. Anytime there is a fall with a serious injury or fatality, it’s a terrible tragedy that affects the workforce, business, family. These fall fatalities are preventable with simple controls or precautions that can be put into place to make a huge difference for workers and business.”

**CPWR:** “It’s not just about falls, it’s about providing a safe workplace. A lot of times very small contractors employee their family members. While safety may not be first thing on business owners mind, because they’re trying to obtain work, manage work and do work his/herself. It’s about providing leadership and understanding that these are employees under the OSH Act you’re responsible for providing safe workplace. It’s also about fostering good communication, fostering leadership and maintaining your workforce. While we’re uncertain how the economy will go in the future, this boom economy we’ve had in the most recent years has meant that it’s hard to get good workers to come work in construction and for small firms. If there’s an incentive to be thought about it would be about demonstrating leadership, demonstrating good communications, demonstrating that we care about the workforce, maintaining the workers’ well-being and just providing good place to work. The threat of OSHA inspection, which is a rare occurrence in small places of employment.”

**From Panelist:** “Everyone has someone that loves them.”

**2) What are we going to do about the residential construction industry's failure to protect immigrant workers from fall hazards? How do we better train all residential construction workers and reach the residential construction market to better equip their workers with fall protection equipment and resources?**

We try to make sure all of the materials we put out are available not only in English but also in Spanish because of the large Hispanic population in construction and the disproportionate risk Hispanic in construction face. A lot of residential construction is small contractors, so we want to make products available in a way that’s easily understood by them. We do research and publish peer reviewed scientific literature. We then turn that research into more digestible communication products such as infographics, factsheets, etc. that can be easily understood. We have a really good partnership with the National Association of Home Builders, the Jobsite Safety Institute (JSI) and Builders Mutual. We’re working with them and JSI is funding studies at NIOSH and with

other organizations to look into this area. We continue to make this a priority. We also recently launched [a new section on stopconstructionfalls.com](#) through the efforts of the NORA Construction Sector Council, which provides streamlined tools and resources to help small contractors 'plan, provide, train.' The section is also available in Spanish.

**3) How can we make the Stand-Downs more effective and what kind of Checklist should one follow to ensure covering the necessary elements, areas, and the Scope, so as to send a clear message to one & all to learn from it and prevent such recurrences?**

We have a number of resources [www.stopconstructionfalls.com](http://www.stopconstructionfalls.com) to help with stand-downs and lots of ideas of how to do that. Our annual Stand-Down plan provides ideas on what to cover for the week, and we have a number of fall prevention planning documents and checklists that highlight areas to focus on for your jobsite:

- [Click Here](#) to download a simple form to develop your Fall Prevention Plan.
- [Click Here](#) to download your Daily Job Site Checklist for Recognizing and Preventing Falls
- If you are ready to create a more detailed plan, [click here](#).

**4) When will the certificate of participation for Stand Down be available on the OSHA website?**

**OSHA:** The certificate is currently available, and the page will remain open for several weeks:

<http://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/certificate.html>

**5) How can I help the Spanish speaking construction community; I can do it in my free time or weekend?**

Consider doing outreach through community organizations, churches, or Hispanic professional associations in your area. There are numerous Spanish-language materials as well as materials for low-literacy populations on our site that can be shared through grassroots efforts.

**6) Do you have a fall prevention slide that we can use for our new employees?**

Feel free to use any of the slides shared today, also encourage you to reach out to

[www.stopconstructionfalls.com](http://www.stopconstructionfalls.com) as there is a wealth of information 'ready-to-go' on fall prevention.

**7) What's the Stand-Down social media hashtag? #StandDown4Safety**

**8) What unusual 'stand down' activities have you come across from previous 'stand downs'?**

I don't know if this is unusual, but my favorite ones we hear about are those that involve employee's families! Involving kids in poster contests, t-shirt making, etc.

**9) What if your workforce is unable to read even in their home language?**

Consider conducting [Toolbox Talks](#) in their language and using more graphic training tools such as [infographics](#) or this [Spot the Hazard "game"](#).

**10) Do you have some resources for fall protection in Aerial Lifts? For example, what are recommended devices since most work is performed below 20 ft?**

Check out <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/prevent-falls-training-other-resources/aerial-lifts/> and <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/aeriallift.html>

## Data related Questions

For the data related questions (not answered during the webinar), we encourage you to check out the below links that will address your specific questions:

- Construction Chart Book <https://www.cpwr.com/research/data-center/the-construction-chart-book/>
  - See Section on “Fatal and Non Fatal Injuries” for fall specific data
- CPWR Data Reports <https://www.cpwr.com/research/data-center/data-reports/>
  - See new Sept 2020 Special Issue *New Trends of Fatal Falls in the Construction Industry*

### 1) Observations have been made, data collected, then enumerated as trends--so what underlying factual causes generate these trends?

We don't have all the answers for the factual causes underneath all the fatalities. We do have an opportunity to look at circumstances surrounding these construction worker fatalities through the [NIOSH FACE Program](#). FACE Reports, available online at the link, are rich in narrative language and context, however only certain fatalities are investigated under FACE Program. CPWR took the FACE reports and coded all the narratives into a database, so we could analyze and look for trends in underlying causes of the falls. [That database](#) is accessible online so you can actually analyze the data yourself. We have a few peer reviewed publications on this analysis to look at underlying causes to help us zero in on the sector the worker worked in or the type of construction but what are some of the causes. A lot of this work has informed this campaign and how we message and structure these activities around the campaign.

- <http://stopconstructionfalls.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Fatal-falls-and-PFAS-use-in-the-construction-industry-Findings-from-the-NIOSH-FACE-reports.pdf>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022437516303991>

The limited information available on underlying factors and root causes underscores the need for additional research, particularly surveillance research. There is a new [CPWR Data Report](#) that came out on the latest trends based on the data that is available to us. Also encourage you to review the recent [NIOSH Science Blog](#) that reviewed drops in numbers and rates.

### 2) Are you seeing trends high or lower with construction falls within a general industry site (i.e. manufacturing site, etc.) vs. residential construction or new construction sites? Has one been better than the other?

See Chart Book and Data Report links above for available information.

### 3) Are the roofing related falls originating in commercial or residential roofing? New construction or reroofing?

See Chart Book and Data Report links above for available information.

### 4) What are the statistics as far as commercial construction currently (masonry and concrete specifically)?

See Chart Book and Data Report links above for available information.

### 5) Falls in residential are on the rise. Does this factor in the rise in residential construction?

Yes, all sectors are included in the data

### 6) Do you have any data which breaks down the deaths to a specific group (Latinos/Hispanics)?

Yes, see Chart Book and Data Report links above for available information.

## Technical Questions

For technical questions or questions relevant to a specific subsector (not answered during the webinar), we encourage you to check out these technical webinars on fall prevention, protection, and rescue:

<https://stopconstructionfalls.com/training-and-other-resources/on-demand-webinars/>

### 1) Will there be any instruction manuals to prevent falls?

There is no one-size-fits-all instruction manual. Fall prevention needs to be tailored based on the trade, job site, work being done, access equipment available, etc.

Resources on all 3 ([CPWR](#), [NIOSH](#), [OSHA](#)) of our webpages provide numerous examples and guidance on methods that will protect employees in various sectors. On all three of our sites you will find information that will be very helpful to you in moving forward in protection workers from fall hazards from identifying fall hazards, to [developing fall prevention plan](#) (Eng. & Sp.), to ideas on training in person, to factsheets to all kinds of information to identify, prevent and train employees on how to remove fall hazards. Susan Harwood grantees also have a library of existing materials that assist on trainings to prevent falls. [OSHA consultation](#) is a tremendous force multiplier to help you.

NIOSH has some virtual training available on our website that will walk you through how to do an inspection of a [mast climber work platform](#) before you go up to elevation. Another tool is the [NIOSH Aerial Lift Hazard Recognition Simulator](#). We feel these web-based training tools that are interactive are an effective way to train construction workers.

### 2) What's new in the area of training and PPE preparation. Anything being tested in this area that is brand new to this industry?

In regard to training, there are multiple ways training can be conducted. As part of this pandemic a lot of people are doing online and virtual training (virtual goggle training for driving equipment and working mobile elevated work platforms). There is a lot of new training in virtual reality. We try to share what we can regarding these new developments on our website.

At NIOSH, we also do extensive amount of research on new products and new technologies. We have a new center working on drones and robotics. We have a study looking at the impact of drones on injuries, preventing injuries, distraction of workers at elevation when there's a drone in the area. CPWR has also funded work in this area. We also support research on various fall related projects at universities. We just funded a major study at University of Pittsburgh on ladder safety. CPWR's [Construction Solutions database](#) also highlights new technologies and solutions to prevent falls (among other hazards).

### 3) Typically, emphasis is on above ground elevations, how are subsurface elevations viewed such as trench and excavation?

A fall from elevation to a lower level, regardless if from ground level down to a pit or in this case an excavation, is still a serious hazard. The trenching standard has requirements for working above a trench (cat-walk above a trench) whether visible or not, and excavation is also covered in our fall standard. The agency has placed a high priority on reducing trenching and excavation incidents and we have compliance assistance specialists focused on below grade issues and are increasing outreach in this area.

CPWR also has a page with numerous resources on trench safety from all 3 of our organizations that may be helpful: <https://www.cpwr.com/research/research-to-practice-r2p/r2p-library/other-resources-for-stakeholders/trench-safety/>.

### 4) Will termite contractors be addressed and included for fall protection? We have had to train a company recently who state they are not required to have fall protection.

"The question goes into Subpart B 1920 standards, there are a multitude of protection requirements. When I think of termite inspectors – they are covered under General Industry Standards, so Subpart B of 1920 standards – if they are exposed to falls from elevations greater than 4 feet (4 feet is the trigger in Subpart B 1920 standards)

there is a requirement to protect employees from falls regardless of whether you're in construction industry or general industry."

**5) Are chin straps are required for hard hats?**

OSHA: "We're seeing them more on the sites with new climbing style hardhats. Right now it's a best practice. Feedback from panelist: chin straps are used often in NYC where there are high wind areas. The adjustment dial also helps keep the hat stationary."

## Resources

### OSHA Links

- OSHA National Stand-Down Page: <https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/>
- OSHA Stand-Down Certificate Page: <https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/index.html#cert>
- OSHA Stop Falls Campaign Page: <https://www.osha.gov/stopfalls/>
- OSHA Consultation is available to help you develop programs to assist employers as well <https://www.osha.gov/consultation>
- OSHA Safety Pays <https://www.osha.gov/shpguidelines/safety-pays.html>

### Stop Falls Campaign (main website managed by CPWR): [www.stopconstructionfalls.com](http://www.stopconstructionfalls.com)

- 2020 Stand-Down Plan: <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/2020-stand-down-plan/>
- Social Media Posts: <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/social-media-post-ideas/>
- One-Stop Shop: <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/one-stop-stand-down-shop/>
- Small Contractors: <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/prevent-falls-training-other-resources/plan-provide-train/>
- What's New: <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/whats-new/>
- Videos & On-Demand Webinars: <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/training-and-other-resources/on-demand-webinars/>
- Toolbox talks: <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/toolbox-talks/>
- Infographics: <http://stopconstructionfalls.com/infographics/>
- Evaluation: <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/about-the-campaign/evaluation-efforts/>

### Fall Prevention Plans

- [Click Here](#) to download a simple form to develop your Fall Prevention Plan.
- [Click Here](#) to download your Daily Job Site Checklist for Recognizing and Preventing Falls
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### Additional CPWR Links

- Construction Solutions: <http://www.cpwrconstructionsolutions.org/>
  - Search by topic "Falls from heights"
- CPWR's online ROI Calculator [www.safecalc.org](http://www.safecalc.org)

### Data (Statistics)

- Construction Chart Book <https://www.cpwr.com/research/data-center/the-construction-chart-book/>

- See Section on “Fatal and Non Fatal Injuries” for fall specific data
- CPWR Data Reports <https://www.cpwr.com/research/data-center/data-reports/>
  - See new Sept 2020 Special Issue *New Trends of Fatal Falls in the Construction Industry*

### NIOSH Links

- NIOSH Stop Falls Campaign Page: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction/stopfallscampaign.html>
- NIOSH Ladder Safety App <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/mobileapp.html>
- NIOSH FACE (Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation) Program: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/>
  - Search “Residential Construction Falls” or “Commercial Construction Falls” to see factors that led to those fatal injuries and recommendation for preventing similar deaths.
  - Factsheet: Prevent Construction Falls from Roofs, Ladders, and Scaffolds <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2019-128/default.html>
- NIOSH Aerial Lift Hazard Recognition Simulator <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/aeriallift.html>
- Mast Climbing Work Platform Daily Inspection Walkthrough Tool <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/mastclimb.html>
- [CDC Construction Safety & Health YouTube Playlist](#)